

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03

FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGR-05 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 125752

NAIROBI FOR USDEL, UNCTAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, UNGA, ECOSOC, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: REVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY

REF: STATE 85708

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1. WITH ONLY SIX WEEKS REMAINING UNTIL START OF 61ST ECOSOC WE ARE INCREASINGLY INTERESTED IN LEARNING INTENTIONS OF BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS REGARDING SCHEDULED CONSIDERATION OF REVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (IDS). THUS FAR INTERNAL WORKING GROUP MENTIONED REFTEL HAS DONE SOME PRELIMINARY STUDY COMPARING IDS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS REFLECTING INTERESTS OF LDCS IN EFFORT TO DETERMINE DIRECTION POSSIBLE REVISION MIGHT TAKE, BUT DEMANDS IMPOSED BY UNCTAD IV HAVE PRECLUDED DETAILED WORK. IF LDCS INTEND PURSUE REVISION EXERCISE SERIOUSLY AT SUMMER ECOSOC, PREPARATION OF ACCEPTABLE TEXT AND PAPERS ON US NEGOTIATING POSITION WILL REQUIRE INTENSE AND ENORMOUSLY TIME-CONSUMING EFFORT, IN MONTH FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF UNCTAD. FOR REASONS CITED IN REFTEL WE WOULD STILL PREFER TO HAVE NO REVISION OF IDS THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, MOST WE MAY BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE IS TO CONFINE SCHEDULED EXERCISE TO INITIAL STEPS ONLY.

2. PERIOD SINCE TRANSMITTAL OF REFTEL HAS BROUGHT NO CONCLUSIVE INDICATIONS OF DIRECTION SCHEDULED DEBATE OF IDS MAY TAKE. COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING MEETING MARCH 29 TO APRIL 9 REPORTEDLY CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD BE POINTLESS TO REVISE IDS AT THIS STAGE AND RECOMMENDED CONSIDERATION BE REMANDED TO NEXT BIENNIAL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL IN 1977. FULL TEXT OF CDP REPORT, HOWEVER, NOT YET AVAILABLE. MELVIN SONNE OF IO/CMD DURING CONSULTATIONS IN NEW YORK, APRIL 19-20, FOUND VARIOUS WEO REPRESENTATIVES INTERESTED IN ADHERING TO PRESENT SCHEDULE FOR REVISION, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS CONTEMPLATING ONLY LIMITED STEPS RATHER THAN FULL-SCALE REWORKING OF DOCUMENT SUCH AS IMPLIED BY DETAILED TEXT SUBMITTED BY GROUP OF 77 IN JUNE 1975. UNFORTUNATELY, OF NATIONS WHO SUPPORTED US IN ABSTAINING ON LAST YEAR'S REVIEW AND APPRAISAL RESOLUTION HIS SURVEY INCLUDED ONLY ITALY, AND UN REPS AT THAT STAGE ALSO LACKED INSTRUCTIONS FROM HOME GOVERNMENTS.

3. AT RECENTLY CONCLUDED SPRING ECOSOC IN NEW YORK AN INDICATION THAT PRESENT INTEREST IN IDS MAY BE NARROW
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EVEN AMONG LDC'S CAME IN ELECTIONS MAY 12 (REPORTED IN USUN 2096, NOTAL) WHEN NEITHER AFRICAN NOR ASIAN GROUP PRESENTED CANDIDATES FOR FIVE POSITIONS AVAILABLE ON REVIEW AND APPRAISAL COMMITTEE. THIS COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, IS NOT PRESENTLY CHARGED WITH CONDUCTING THE 1976 REVISION WHICH IT ENDORSED LAST YEAR. MORE INDICATIVE OF PROSPECTS FOR IDS WAS ACCEPTANCE ON MAY 11 OF SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSALS ON "ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE 61ST

SESSION" (E/L. 1707) WHICH INCLUDED FORMATION OF "SPECIAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE" TO MEET JULY 12 TO 30 ON AGENDA ITEM 9, IN WHICH PRIME TOPICS ARE NIEO AND IDS. IN OUR VIEW THIS ARRANGEMENT PROVIDES AMPLE OPPORTUNITY FOR MORE MILITANT LDCS TO INTRODUCE MISCHIEVOUS PROPOSALS FOR REVISION IF THEY WISH TO CONCENTRATE ON IDS BUT INSUFFICIENT TIME FOR ORDERLY AND RATIONAL REWORKING OF DOCUMENT, WHICH ORIGINALLY WAS TWO YEARS IN PREPARATION.

4. STATE/AID WORKING GROUP NOW SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE ON JUNE 3 TO REVIEW PRELIMINARY DRAFTS AND, IF REALLY NECESSARY, START PREPARATION OF DETAILED NEW TEXT AND POSITION PAPERS. THEREFORE, BY NOT LATER THAN MAY 27 WE REQUIRE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE ON INTENTIONS OF OTHER NATIONS. WHILE POSSIBILITY SUGGESTED IN REFTEL (PARA. 4) OF AVOIDING REVISION EXERCISE ENTIRELY IS PROBABLY SLIM, STILL UNCERTAIN WHETHER OTHERS CONTEMPLATE

COMPLETE RE-WRITING, REAFFIRMATION OF PRESENT IDS WITH SOME MODIFICATION OF TARGETS AND/OR GUIDELINES, PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER STUDY, OR SOME OTHER FORMULA. WE WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN KNOWING IF LDCS ALREADY WORKING ON FULL-SCALE DOCUMENT (PRESUMING THAT THEIR 1975 CONFERENCE ROOM PAPER WOULD OFFER STARTING POINT BUT REQUIRE UPDATING) OR IF ANY WEO NATION IS PREPARED TO MAKE SPECIFIC PROPOSAL (SUCH AS CREATING STUDY GROUP) WHICH WOULD REDUCE ONUS ON US OF DISCOURAGING HASTY ACTION THIS YEAR.

5. WE REMAIN CAUTIOUS ABOUT APPROACHING LDCS THEMSELVES ON THIS QUESTION FOR FEAR OF RE-AWAKENING THEIR INTEREST AND STIMULATING FURTHER PREPARATIONS, BUT
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ASSUME US DEL IN NAIROBI MAY ALREADY HAVE GLEANED SOME CLUE OF WHETHER PLANS FOR EXERCISE ARE UNDERWAY OR, IF NECESSARY, COULD MAKE FEW DISCREET INQUIRIES AMONG MODERATE REPS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS. USUN ALSO IS REMINDED THAT NO SPECIFIC REPLY YET RECEIVED TO REFTEL AND ANY PERTINENT COMMENTS WOULD BE MOST USEFUL. OTHER ADDRESSES (PREVIOUSLY INCLUDED FOR INFORMATION ONLY) ARE NOW REQUESTED TO APPROACH RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS OF HOST GOVERNMENTS TO DETERMINE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY HAVE FOCUSED ON PRESENT SCHEDULE FOR REVISION OF IDS AND EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF ACTING IN CONCERT AT ECOSOC AND SUBSEQUENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY. ROBINSON

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